



# California Victim Compensation Program

*Information  
for  
First-Responders*

Crime Hurts Everybody

**We Can Help.**

**[www.VictimCompensation.ca.gov](http://www.VictimCompensation.ca.gov)**

California's Victim Compensation Program has paid more than \$1.7 billion to victims since 1965.  
Medical, mental health treatment, relocation and funeral costs are just some of the expenses  
covered by the program.

**Injured in a crime?  
Call 1-800-777-9229**



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**2008**

# California Victim Compensation Program (VCP)

- Created in 1965 to lessen the financial impact of crime on qualifying victims
- Paid nearly \$1.8 billion to victims
- Applications received up 10% and payments \$82 million in FY 07-08
- By law, VCP is the payer of last resort for eligible out-of-pocket losses resulting from the crime



# The VCP Can Reimburse for ...

- Medical and dental treatment
- Mental health services
- Income loss
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Loss of support, for dependents when a victim is killed or disabled because of a crime
- Job retraining
- Home or vehicle modifications
- Home security
- Relocation
- Insurance co-payments
- Crime scene cleanup
- Medically necessary equipment such as a wheelchair
- Childcare services, when a caregiver is killed or disabled because of a crime



# Criminal Offenders Pay for Compensation

- Fines and fees, including traffic fines
- Restitution fines and orders
- Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grants
- Portion of state penalty assessments

*Not funded by taxpayer dollars*

# Qualifying Crimes

- Typically require a physical injury or a threat of physical injury or death
- For certain crimes emotionally injury alone is all that needs to be shown
- Covers victims of crimes that occur in California or Californians injured in crimes outside the state

# Examples of Qualifying Crimes

- Murder
- Robbery
- Battery
- Assault with  
Deadly Weapon
- Sexual Assault
- Terrorist Threats
- Human Trafficking
- Child Abuse / Molest
- Domestic Violence
- Elder Abuse
- Vehicular offenses
  - DUI
  - Hit and Run
  - Vehicular Manslaughter
  - Assault with vehicle



# To Be Eligible, Victims Must ...

- Report crime to police, sheriff, child-protective services or other law-enforcement agency
- Generally, apply within a year of crime, or, if victim is under 18, prior to 19th birthday
- Cooperate with law enforcement and VCP
- Not have participated in or been involved in committing the crime
- Not be in prison, on parole or on felony probation



# Victims and Family Members Qualify

- Certain family members or other loved ones who suffer an economic loss resulting from an injury to or death of a crime victim may also be eligible for compensation. Such indirect victims include:
  - Spouse
  - Sibling
  - Parent
  - Child
  - Grandparent
  - Grandchild
  - Registered Domestic Partner
  - Person who was living in the same household as the victim at the time of the crime
  - Person who has become the primary caretaker of a victim after the crime



# Emergency Awards

- Claimant must suffer substantial hardship without the award
- Emergency payment would help with an immediate need
- Documentation needed
- Processed within 30 days
- Local county Victim Witness Assistance Program can help applicants with process

# How Do Victims Connect With Victim Compensation?

- Most victims access the program with the assistance of Victim Witness Assistance Advocates in local counties
- County district attorney offices operate many Victim Witness Programs
- The VCP works with staff in 21 local county Joint Powers Verification Units statewide to process claims

# Victims Can Contact the Program Directly

**1-800-777-9229**

- Customer service representatives can answer questions and help victims apply for compensation

**[www.victimcompensation.ca.gov](http://www.victimcompensation.ca.gov)**

- A variety of online resources and information is available at the VCP website

# Police Reports Essential

- The VCP appreciates the assistance of law enforcement in responding to requests for copies of police reports
- Information verifies crime and aids eligibility and benefit decisions allowing victim to receive compensation
- Law requires exchange of information within 10 business days of request
- Records handled securely

# Relocation Assistance

- VCP can provide up to \$2,000 per household
- Must be determined by law enforcement to be necessary for victim's safety, or by mental health provider as necessary for emotional well-being
- Providing determination of necessity to program allows victim to receive assistance and seek safety
- Victims of sexual assault or domestic violence, when offender is known, must agree not to inform offender of location of new residence, or must seek a restraining order
- Local Victim-Witness Assistance staff can assist victims with application process

# Our Duty to Inform Victims

- California law requires the VCP to work with law enforcement and other first-responders to help inform victims about available assistance
- The Government Code also states it is the duty of law enforcement to inform crime victims about the VCP and local victim-assistance resources
- Some departments use checkbox on crime reports to indicate victim was informed

# Good Samaritan Program

- The Good Samaritan Program may help pay for property damage, lost income, medical/dental and funeral/burial expenses to any private citizen who comes to the aid of a crime victim or assists another person in immediate danger of death or injury
- \$10,000 benefit limit

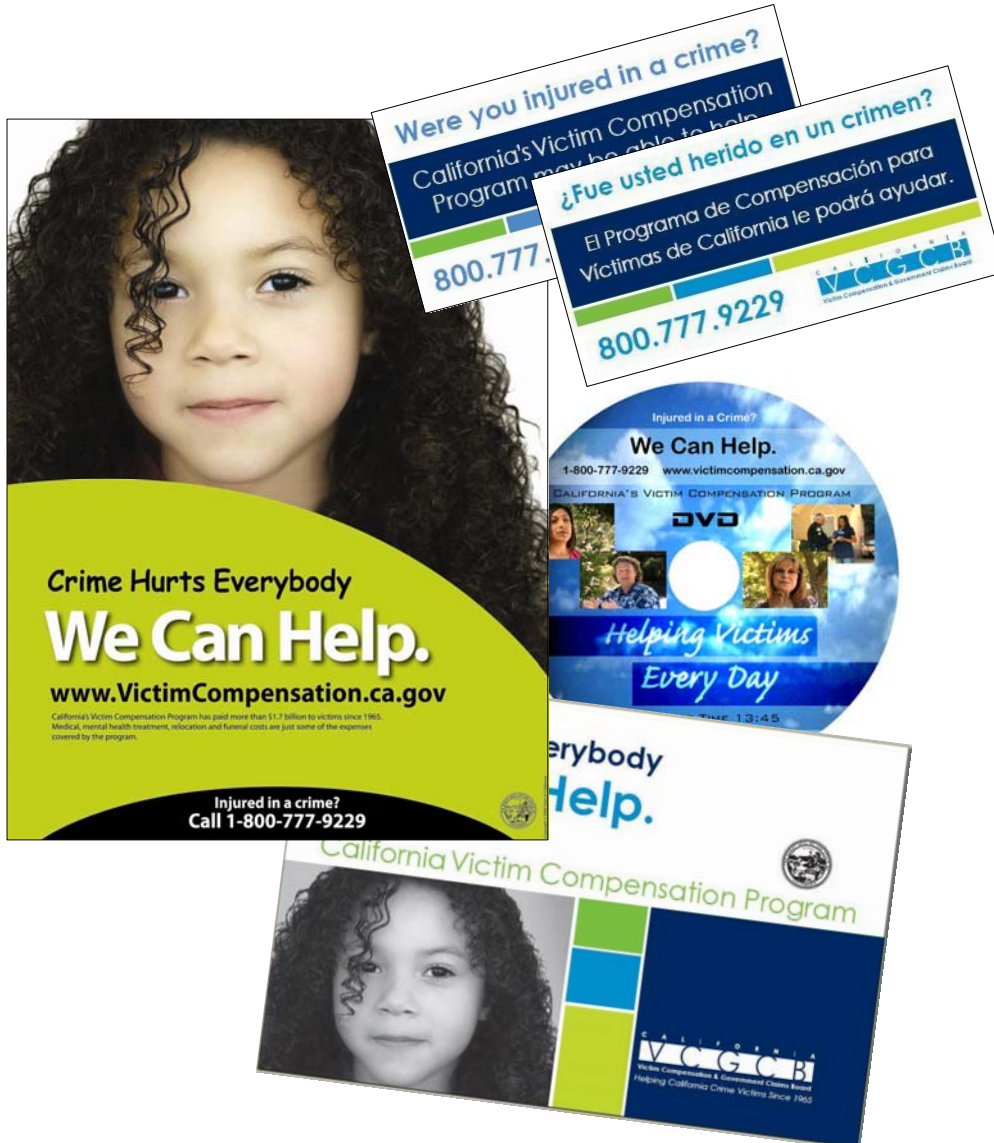
# Missing Children Rewards

- Missing Children Reward Program assists local law enforcement agencies and other parties in identification and recovery of missing children in California
- Enhances non-state reward funds
- Rewards persons with up to \$500 for information leading to location and recovery of a missing child listed in the California Department of Justice Missing Person Registry



# Informational Tools

- The VCP has a variety of print and multimedia materials that can help you reach victims of violent crime



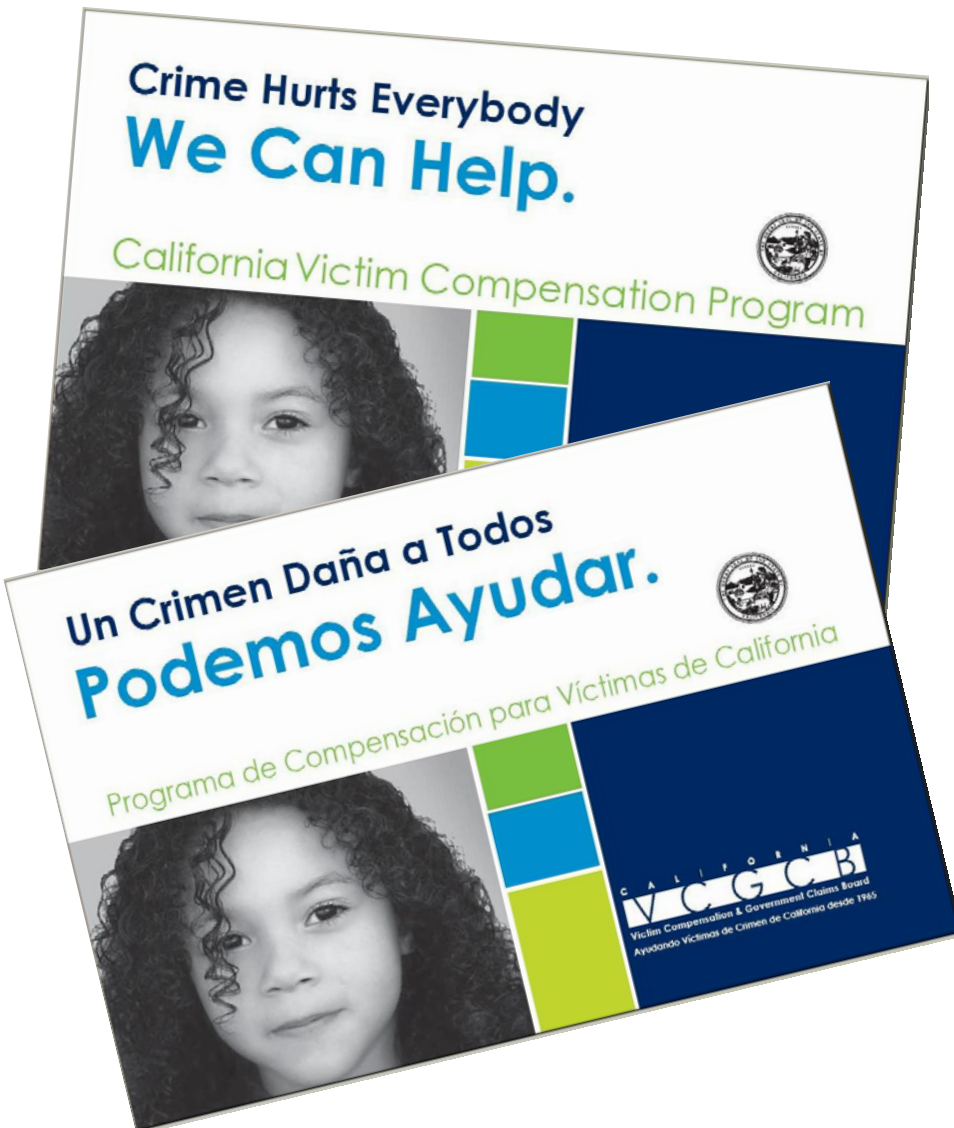
# First-Responder Cards

- The business-card-size VCP information card can help first-responders such as law enforcement officers, paramedics, advocates and others easily provide basic information on the VCP to victims in the field



# Brochures

- User-friendly information about the VCP for crime victims and their loved ones



# Posters

- Ideal for display in victim-witness centers, law enforcement offices, hospital emergency rooms, crisis centers and many other locations serving crime victims





# DVDs

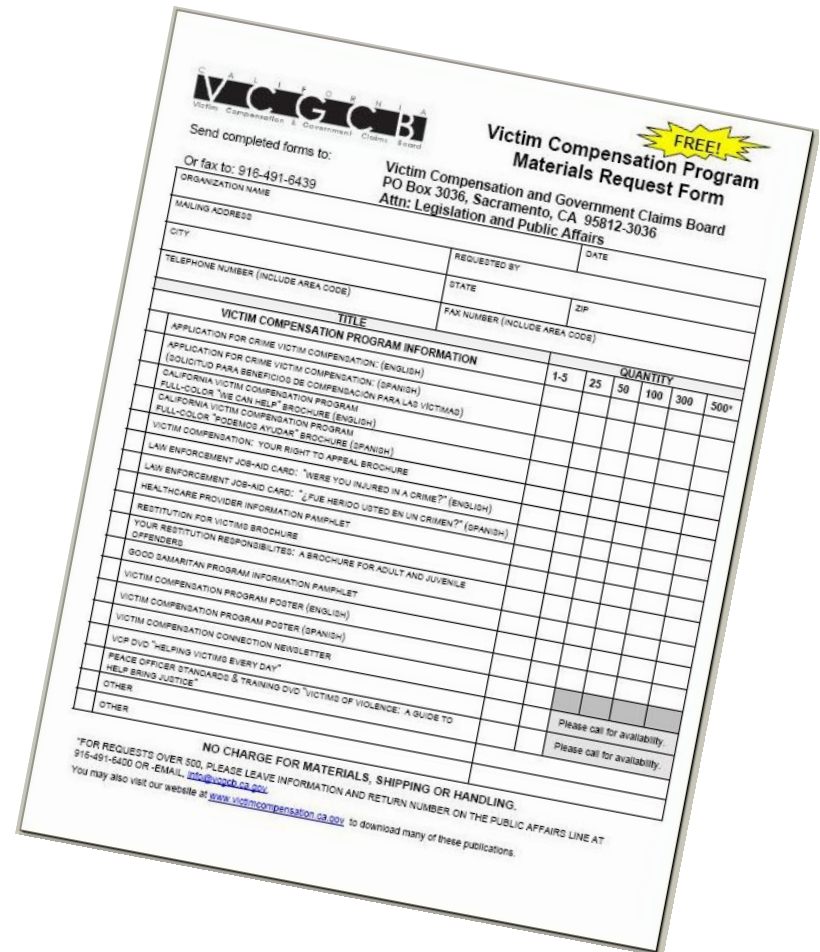
- “Injured in a Crime? We Can Help.” features real victims and/or survivors of crime who recount their experience and later tell of the assistance they received



# How to Order Free Materials

- Print, fill out and fax the Materials Request Form located in the "Publications Section" of the VCP website:

[www.victimcompensation.ca.gov](http://www.victimcompensation.ca.gov)



The image shows a "Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board Materials Request Form". At the top left is the VCP logo. To its right, it says "Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board" and "PO Box 3036, Sacramento, CA 95812-3036 Attn: Legislation and Public Affairs". A yellow starburst graphic with the word "FREE!" is in the top right corner. Below the logo, it says "Send completed forms to: Or fax to: 916-491-6439". The form includes fields for "ORGANIZATION NAME", "MAILING ADDRESS", "CITY", "TELEPHONE NUMBER (INCLUDE AREA CODE)", "REQUESTED BY", "DATE", "STATE", and "ZIP". Below these is a table for "VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM INFORMATION" with columns for "TITLE", "1-5", "25", "50", "100", "300", and "500\*". The table lists various materials such as "APPLICATION FOR CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION (ENGLISH)", "CALIFORNIA VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM FULL-COLOR 'USE CAN HELP' BROCHURE (ENGLISH)", "VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM POSTER (ENGLISH)", and "VCP DVD 'HELPING VICTIMS EVERY DAY'". At the bottom, it states "NO CHARGE FOR MATERIALS, SHIPPING OR HANDLING." and provides contact information for requests over \$500.

TITLE	1-5	25	50	100	300	500*
APPLICATION FOR CRIME VICTIM COMPENSATION (ENGLISH)						
(SOLICITUD PARA BENEFICIOS DE COMPENSACION (SPANISH)						
CALIFORNIA VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM FULL-COLOR 'USE CAN HELP' BROCHURE (ENGLISH)						
CALIFORNIA VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM FULL-COLOR 'PODEMOS AYUDAR' BROCHURE (SPANISH)						
VICTIM COMPENSATION: YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL BROCHURE						
LAW ENFORCEMENT JOB-AID CARD: "WHERE YOU INJURED IN A CRIME" (ENGLISH)						
HEALTHCARE PROVIDER INFORMATION PAMPHLET						
YOUR RESTITUTION RESPONSIBILITIES: A BROCHURE FOR ADULT AND JUVENILE						
VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM INFORMATION PAMPHLET						
VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM POSTER (ENGLISH)						
VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM POSTER (SPANISH)						
VCP DVD "HELPING VICTIMS EVERY DAY"						
PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS & TRAINING DVD "VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE: A GUIDE TO HELP BRING JUSTICE"						
OTHER						

\*FOR REQUESTS OVER \$500, PLEASE LEAVE INFORMATION AND RETURN NUMBER ON THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS LINE AT 916-491-6400 OR E-MAIL: [info@vcpd.ca.gov](mailto:info@vcpd.ca.gov). You may also visit our website at [www.victimcompensation.ca.gov](http://www.victimcompensation.ca.gov) to download many of these publications.



# Contact the VCP

- **1-800-777-9229**
- **[www.victimcompensation.ca.gov](http://www.victimcompensation.ca.gov)**
- **[info@vcgcb.ca.gov](mailto:info@vcgcb.ca.gov)**
- Contact Public Affairs regarding presentations or publications at:  
(916) 491-6400
- Contact your local Victim Witness Assistance Program